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THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the Popiſh *and* Jacobite *Plot. On the Aſſaſſination of Mr.* Hore.

From Saturday December the 18th, to Wednesday December the 22d, 1703.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, the *Scots Jacobite* Plot is at laſt broken out, and my Queen has been at the Houſe of Lords, where She acquainted both Houſes of Parliament with as much of that affair, as was thought fit at preſent. All the good People at *London* Rejoyce wonderfully at this Diſcovery; and thank God, who in his great Mercy to theſe Kingdoms, has brought to light the Helliſh Deſigns of *Jacobites* and *Papiſts*, againſt Her Majeſties Perſon and Government. I have already ſpoken to ſome of the *Free-Holders* of our Country to Aſſemble themſelves in Order to draw up and Sign an Addreſs to Her Majeſty on this Important Occaſion; and we'll be ſure not to leave young *Perkin* out of our Addreſs, as ſome others did out of Theirs: We'll ſtand by Her Majeſty with *Life* and *Fortune*, not only againſt young *Perkin* and his Adherents, but againſt all *Papiſts* in Maſquerade, ſuch as call themſelves *High-Church-men*, and are e'en as good *Chriſtians* as the *Scots Non-Juring Prieſt*, that Wrote the Book, call'd, *The Wolf Stript from his Shepherds Cloathing*. Come, come, I hope theſe *Vile* and *Impious* Hands, which endeavour to ſhake the Throne of my Queen, will Settle Her the faſter in it, inſtead of Removing Her from it; for now 'tis time for Us to beſtir our ſelves, and Unanimouſly agree to preſerve the Queen and the Realm.

Obſ. Well ſaid, Heart of *Oak!* I find thou wilt ſtand firm and true to a *Proteſtant* Queen, who is the Protectreſs of the *Proteſtant Religion*. I ſhould Diſpleaſe ſome People if I ſhould look back to the Infancy of this Reign, and call to Mind how Impudently the *Scots Non-Juring Epiſcopal Clergy* Addreſs'd Her Majeſty, and Petitioned for Her *Royal Bounty* to Men, who were avowed Enemies to Her Majeſty and the *Proteſtant Intereſt*, and not only Refuſed the Oaths appointed by Law, but Appugn'd Her Majeſties Right to the Crown: I dare engage you'll find the *Non-Juring Clergy* deep in this Execrable *Combination*; and it admits of room for Thought, to conſider, That the Laws againſt *Papiſts* have not been put in Execution ſince Her Majeſties happy Acceſſion to the Throne; that they have kept *Clubs* and *Cabels* in the City of *London*, and when Complaint thereof was made to a certain Magiſtrate by a Pariſh-Officer, the Anſwer to the Officer was, *That he ſhould mind his own Buſineſs*. Don't you remember that I had a Bill brought againſt me at the *Old-Bayly*, and Solicited by the common Advocate for the *Papiſts*, *Robin Hog*, that Infamous Fellow, againſt whom an Indictment for *Perjury* has been found by the *Grand-Jury*; and was not the Charge at that time againſt me, That I had Written againſt the *Papiſts*, by giving an Account of the Numbers of the *Papiſts* come from beyond the Seas into *Scotland* and *Ireland*: And whoever looks back into what I have Written, will find that I made Diſcovery of this *Plot* ſeveral Months ago.

But for this I have been *Hated*, *Libell'd*, and *Miſrepreſented* to the whole Nation, when the very Intent and Deſign of my Writing has ever been for the Service of my Queen, the Security of Her Perſon and Government, and the Good of the Realm. And tho' I have been *Miſrepreſented* and *Miſunderſtood*, as having Reflected on the Honourable Houſe of Commons, whoever ſhall Examine my Writings, either in this, or the late Reign, will be Convinc'd that no One Man in *England*, has Vindicated to a higher Degree the *Rights* and *Priviledges* of that *Auguſt* Aſſembly than my ſelf. I bleſs God I have been a *Stumbling-Block* in the way to *Popery* and *Arbitrary-Power*, and tho' my Services have met with neither Reward nor Countenance, yet can I Content my ſelf in having done my Duty; by doing of which I have got that Satisfaction and Peace of Mind, which is the moſt valuable Treaſure that can be. I have Engaged in a Cauſe, for which (by the Divine Aſſiſtance) I hope I can Die, with as Even and Calm a Temper of Mind, as now I ſpeak, nor do I value one Ruſh all the Malicious Reflections and Calumnies of Evil Men upon this Account.

Country-m. Maſter *Obſervator*, I believe no Man in *England* has been bely'd like your ſelf. There is now a Book Publiſh'd, as I am told, by the *Incorrigible Rogue* in the *Queens-Bench*, wherein you are bely'd as formerly. This Book was Written by the Aſſiſtance of your Old Friend, Parſon *Smut*, who now has got the prittieſt Wench to ſerve under him, that ever he had in all his Life. A Friend of mine has told me abundance of Stories of that *Eccleſiaſtical Knight-Earant*'s Chivalry in the Camp of *Venus*; but I find he does not excel in Preaching; for not long ſince he was pleaſed to deliver this Wiſe ſaying in the Pulpit. *The Lamb and the Dove are Emblems of Innocency, but the Lyon and the Eagle are Birds of Prey.* Now you know the *Lyon* muſt be a Bird, if Parſon *Smut* ſays ſo, tho' there is a greater Difference than betwixt an *Alchimy* and a *Silver Spoon*. I wonder we have ſuch Fellows made *Parſons* as are not fit for *Coblers*.

Obſ. I never Read one of that Miſcreants Books in all my Life, and I ſuppoſe never ſhall, but 'tis worthy Conſideration, what Villanous Inſtruments the *Papiſts* and their Accomplices make uſe of to carry on their Deſigns. They may now perhaps get ſome *Iriſh-Evidences* (if their Noble Race of *Commins* and *Macnamar*'s are not extinct) to make Swear of the *Popiſh* and *Jacobite-Plot* in *Scotland* upon the *Kirk-Party*. *Robin Ferguſon* knows how to put 'em into the way to it; and he's a better Fellow at Shamming of *Plots* by a Hundred times, than the *Nonſenſical*, *Fooliſh* Prieſt

Priest in *Southwark*, who knows not the defference betwixt St. *George* and the *Dragon*.

Country-m. Master *Observator*, I protest I am quite Distracted, when I consider the vast Numbers of *Papists* that are In and About the City of *London*; God preserve my Queen, I could wish all these Papists further off, and that the Laws against them were put in Execution, especially at this Juncture: I can't Sleep a Nights to think what Danger my Queen is in, when She has so many of these Her Mortal Enemies so near Her Royal Palace.

Obs. Honest *Country-man*, we have had many good Men upon the Watch, since Her Majesties Accession to the Throne; who, if they had Power, would have Cut the Ground from under the Feet of Her Majesties *Popish* and *Non-Juring* Enemies; they have told us our *Danger*, they have bid us take Notice of the Numbers and Strength of our Enemies, they have forewarn'd us of our *Ruine*; but alas, we are *Stupid*, over-come with *Lethargick-Passions*, and *Dosing* on the very brink of *Destruction*. 'Tis not long since a Book was Publish'd, call'd *The Present Danger of Popery in* England, and Dedicated to the Civil Magistrates of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, whoever Reads that Book, will therein find Foundation enough for a *Plot* of this Nature. Read that Book now, and the Account of this *Plot*, when Printed, and then Judge whether we had not timely Notice. But so *Besotted* are Mankind, that they'll rather spend large Sums of Money in *Acting* and *Drunkenness*, in *Glutttony*, and *Seeing* of *Obscene* or *Blasphemous-Plays*, than Spend Six Pence to know on what *Foot* they Stand, and what *Designs* are carrying on against their *Liberties*, and the *Constitution* of their Country. When Men are given over to a *Judicial Blindness*, we need not wonder if Destruction over-take them at unawares.

It is much safer to Speak too little, than to say too much, otherwise I could launch out into a large Retrospection of the Prognosticks of this *Plot*, which have been enough Visible, and from preceding Occurences could draw Natural Conclusions of such an Effect. 'Tis mine and the Nations great Comfort, that this Discovery happens at a Juncture, when the *Grand-Council* of the Nation is Assembled in Parliament; the Affair is in the best hands it can be; so that we may justly hope for a Happy Issue.

Country-m. Sir, a Friend of mine desired me to caution you to have a care of your self, for Mr. *Hore*, (who laid the Complaint before the House of Lords, relating to the bad Provisions used in the Fleet, by which means great Numbers of our Sailors have lost their Lives,) has been Assassinated in the Night, as he was going to a Noble Lords. He was struck (as he supposes with a Hammer) and left for Dead. He has a great Wound in his Forehead, and it is feared his Scull is broken.

Obs. If the Party had Murdered Mr. *Hore*, that would not have secured them from Justice, nor the Examination of the House of Lords. 'Tis true, this is a sure way to Deter the Evidences from appearing to give their Testimony: But this will not do their Business neither, for the very *Management* of the *Victualling* proves the *Fact*, and I my self will engage to prove the badness of the *Provisions* without any other *Evidence*. Perhaps you'll find that Discovery not much inferiour to that of the *Plot*. 'Tis in good Hands, and if the Parties concerned are every one of them Murder'd, as I believe their Enemies Design, yet their Service to their Country will be a Publick Benefit after their Death.

Country-m. I hope, e'er long, to have the Affair of Admiral *Groyden* brought on the Stage; that's a Wheel within a Wheel: there will be another material Discovery. Come, Sir, Her Majesty (God be thanked) has opened the Eyes of the whole, and if we do not now look about us, we are Puppies that are not Born to Eye-sight.

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